

**DEGREE/PROGRAM CHANGE
FORM C
Form Number: C1303**

Fields marked with * are required

Name of Initiator: Rikk Murphy **Email:*** rikk@unm.edu **Date:*** 10-18-13
Phone Number:* 505-277-5009 Initiator's Title* Coordinator Program Advisement, Psych Dept

Associated Forms exist?* Yes
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Proposed effective term:

Semester Year

Course Information

Select Appropriate Program
Name of New or Existing Program * PhD Psychology Cognition, Brain and Behavior Concentration
Select Category Degree Type
Select Action

Exact Title and Requirements as they should appear in the catalog. If there is a change, upload current and proposed requirements.

See current catalog for format within the respective college (upload a doc/pdf file)

[Catalog Description.docx](#)

Does this change affect other departmental program/branch campuses? If yes, indicate below.

Reason(s) for Request * (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

[Reason for Request.docx](#)

Upload a document that includes justification for the program, impact on long-range planning, detailed budget analysis and faculty workload implications.*

[Justification.docx](#)

New Catalog Description

Cognition, Brain and Behavior Concentration

The Cognition, Brain and Behavior Concentration reflects a unique opportunity for training in experimental psychology. We believe that immediate hands-on experience conducting and disseminating research, coupled with comprehensive course work, builds competent, confident students capable of developing a competitive research profile. Students enter under a faculty mentor and begin active research in the first year.

In addition to required courses in Psychology, all CBB students are required to complete the following core courses in the CBB area:

PSY 561	Cognitive Processes
PSY 540	Biological Bases of Behavior
PSY 541	Introduction to Functional Neuroimaging

All CBB students in the second and all subsequent years must participate in a literature discussion section once a year:

PSY 641	Seminar in Cognition, Brain and Behavior (2 credits)
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All CBB students will be required to select additional elective courses from the CBB area to satisfy a total credit requirement (including core courses) of 15 units.

The choice of electives and substitution of any alternative elective courses must be approved by the CBB Faculty.

Current Catalog Entry

Cognition, Brain and Behavior

The Cognition, Brain and Behavior area reflects a unique opportunity for training in experimental psychology. We believe that immediate, hands-on experience, coupled with comprehensive course work, builds competent, confident students capable of developing a competitive research profile. Students enter under a faculty mentor and begin active research in the first year.

Cognitive/Learning Concentration

Fifteen credit hours in cognitive.

This will include two cognitive area core courses:

PSY 561 Cognitive Processes I

PSY 562 Cognitive Processes II

Three electives.

Cognitive Neuroimaging Concentration

Beyond the departmental required courses all cognitive neurosciences students will be required to complete five courses in concentration. Three of these five required courses must be chosen from the following:

PSY 540 Biological Bases of Behavior

PSY 650 Special Topics in Functional Neuroimaging I

PSY 650 Special Topics in Functional Neuroimaging II

PSY 641 Seminar in Cognitive Neuroimaging (once a year)

The remaining two courses must be chosen from the following:

PSY 650 Special Topics in Biological Bases of Cognition

PSY 650 Special Topics in Developmental Neuroscience

PSY 650 Special Topics in Clinical Neuroimaging

PSY 650 Special Topics in Psych Program Methods

BIOM 533 Neurophysiology and Neuroanatomy

Behavioral Neuroscience Concentration

Beyond the departmental required courses, all behavioral neuroscience students will be required to complete five courses. Two of these five required courses will be the following:

PSY 540 Biological Bases of Behavior

PSY 641 Seminar in Physiological Psychology

The remaining three courses must consist of one course from each of the following three areas:

Neuropsychology

PSY 650 Advanced Neuropsychological Assessment

PSY 650 Biological Bases of Memory

PSY 650 Neuropsychology of Individual Differences

PSY 650 Human Neuropsychology

PSY 650 Neural Basis of Cognitive Development

Neurobiology

PSY 542 Seminar in Recovery of Function and Epilepsy

BIOM
531 Nervous System Organization, Plasticity and Development

BIOM
532 Neurochemistry

BIOM
533 Neurophysiology and Neuroanatomy

Psychopharmacology

PSY 547 Drugs and Behavior

PSY 650 Neural Basis of Addiction

Reason for Request:

The purpose of the CBB area is to provide advanced training on the principles of behavior and cognitive processes and their neurobiological bases. In the past we have required three core courses and an annual seminar, and have organized elective courses into three distinct tracks. These elective tracks were erroneously listed as concentrations. This organization created some confusion amongst current and prospective students in that the specific elective courses that were listed were incorrectly thought to be *required*. Rather, the requirement is that a specified number of credits be completed from the pool of elective courses. It also created a situation where it was difficult to routinely offer courses that would satisfy the distinct elective requirements for each 'concentration' based on faculty availability and student interest and need. Therefore, we are requesting a change to eliminate the separate training 'concentrations' and associated elective specifications in favor of a simpler organization that frees up students to tailor course-work for their specific needs and interests. Current students in the separate concentrations would be transitioned into the new CBB concentration.

Budgetary and Faculty Load Implications

This modification will not require additional budgetary resources or additions to our current faculty. There are no direct implications regarding faculty load. The elective courses required for the CBB concentration are already being offered in our department, and the faculty will continue to teach elective courses at the current level.

Long-Range Planning:

This modification will allow the CBB area to better meet the long-range and primary goal of training Ph.D. students in the area cognition, brain and behavior, while reducing confusion about our course requirements, particularly elective courses, for current and prospective students. Further, by eliminating the organization of specific elective course descriptions in separate concentrations this should also reduce confusion about the concentration and its organization. By eliminating these sources of confusion through the simplification of how the elective requirements are specified we will also hopefully help students reduce the total time to graduation.